

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P: RONEILL:RG-
APPROVED BY NEA/P: GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
EUR/P - MR. SEIDNER
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

----- 107304

R 062153Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 6,
1975:

Q. THERE IS A REPORT TODAY BY THE HEARST HEADLINE
SERVICE, THAT SAID THE SECRETARY WILL BEGIN A TRIP TO THE
MIDDLE EAST ON THE 18TH OR 20TH OF AUGUST. CAN YOA
COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN I DID YESTERDAY
OR LAST WEEK. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN WHAT I HAVE SAID
WITH REGARD TO ANY PLANS THAT THE SECRETARY MAY HAVE.
HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY PRESENT PLANS, BUT OBVIOUSLY HE
IS NOT RULING OUT THAT AT SOME POINT HE MAY GO TO THE
MIDDLE EAST.

Q. MY OFFICE TELLS ME THERE WAS A NEWS AGENCY REPORT
SAYING THAT WHILE IN BUCHAREST, PRESIDENT FORD MET A PLO
REPRESENTATIVE THERE, OR SHOOK HIS HAND, OR SOMETHING.

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF: ONE, WHETHER HE DID SO?
AND/OR, WHETHER THIS INDICATED ANYTHING.

A. I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT FOR YOU. I UNDERSTAND THAT
THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN BUCHAREST WAS PRESENT IN THE
DIPLOMATIC GREETING PARTY ARRANGED BY THE ROMANIAN
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GOVERNMENT AT THE AIRPORT WHEN THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED.

THE PRESIDENT HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE WITH HIM AT ALL,
AND I WANT TO STRESS HERE, IN ANSWER TO THE SECOND PART OF
YOUR QUESTION, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR
POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE PLO--WHICH IS THAT WE DO NOT
HAVE SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH IT.

Q. IS THAT NORMAL PROTOCOL FOR THE HOST COUNTRY AT AN ARRIVAL, TO ARRANGE FOR THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE IN THE WELCOMING CROWD WITH WHOM THERE ARE NO RELATIONS AND NO OFFICIAL CONTACT?

A. I HAVE SEEN THIS IN MY OWN SERVICE ABROAD, BEFORE, YES.

Q. BOB, WAS THERE A RECEPTION AT WHICH THEY DID, IN FACT, SHAKE HANDS? IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME WHETHER THEY WERE JUST IN A CROWD THERE, OR WHAT IT WAS.

A. WELL MY INFORMATION IS THAT THIS WAS AT THE LINEUP OF THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE AIRPORT WHEN THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED. IT WAS NOT A RECEPTION IN TERMS OF A GATHERING WITH DRINKS, ETC. THIS WAS SOMETHING AT THE AIRPORT.

Q. DOES HE GO DOWN THE LINE AND SHAKE THE HAND OF EACH DIPLOMAT WHO GREETES HIM?

A. NORMALLY THAT IS ALL THAT HAPPENS. THE TOP REPRESENTATIVE, OR THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OF THE HOST COUNTRY, WILL TAKE THE CHIEF OF STATE AND INTRODUCE HIM TO EACH PERSON.

Q. IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS CASE?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, YES.

Q. DID HE KNOW THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE THERE?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE DID NOT.

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Q. WHAT IS A NONSUBSTANTIVE CONTACT?

A. I GET YOUR QUESTION. I THINK POSSIBLY UP AT THE UNITED NATIONS, WHEN THE PLO DELEGATION CAME OVER LAST FALL, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME NONSUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS TO DO WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, OR THE LIKE. THAT IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE THAT COMES OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.

Q. A CONTACT BY LOWER EMBASSY OFFICIALS, SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE MID EAST -- WOULD THAT BE SUBSTANTIVE, OR NONSUBSTANTIVE?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY SUCH CONTACTS. KISSINGER

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